

- Intercity Transportation - Intercity bus service is one of a few remaining examples of privately owned and operated public transportation in North Carolina. Intercity buses serve many cities and towns throughout the state and provide connections to locations in neighboring states and throughout the United States and Canada. Greyhound/Carolina Trailways operates in North Carolina. However, community, urban and regional transportation systems are providing increasing intercity service in North Carolina.

An inventory of existing and planned fixed public transportation routes for the planning area is presented on Sheet 3 of Figure 1. Ashe County Transportation operates both a fixed route circulator and on demand services to the rest of the county. The circulator operates in Jefferson and West Jefferson connecting points of interest including shopping, industry, the high school, government offices, and town centers. All recommendations for public transportation were coordinated with the local governments and the Public Transportation Division of NCDOT. Refer to Appendix A for contact information.

### Rail

Today North Carolina has 3,684 miles of railroad tracks throughout the state. There are two types of trains that operate in the state, passenger trains and freight trains.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation sponsors two passenger trains, the Carolinian and Piedmont. The Carolinian runs between Charlotte and New York City, while the Piedmont train carries passengers from Raleigh to Charlotte and back everyday. Combined, the Carolinian and Piedmont carry more than 200,000 passengers each year.

There are two major freight railroad companies that operate in North Carolina, CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Corporation. Also, there are more than 20 smaller freight railroads, known as shortlines.

According to the Rail Division of NCDOT there are no active or planned rail lines in Ashe County. Refer to Appendix A for contact information.

### ***Bicycles & Pedestrians***

Bicyclists and pedestrians are a growing part of the transportation equation in North Carolina. Many communities are working to improve mobility for both cyclists and pedestrians.

NCDOT's Bicycle Policy, updated in 1991, clarifies responsibilities regarding the provision of bicycle facilities upon and along the 77,000-mile state-maintained highway system. The policy details guidelines for planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations pertaining to bicycle facilities and accommodations. All bicycle improvements undertaken by the NCDOT are based upon this policy.